

Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission Report

March 2008

CHAPTER 2.5.5.

EQUINE INFLUENZA

Article 2.5.5.1.

For the purposes of the *Terrestrial Code*, equine influenza (EI) is defined as an *infection* of domestic horses, donkeys and mules.

For the purposes of *international trade*, this Chapter deals not only with the occurrence of clinical signs caused by equine influenza virus (EIV), but also with the presence of *infection* with EIV in the absence of clinical signs.

For the purposes of this chapter, isolation is defined as ‘the separation of horses from horses of a different equine influenza health status, utilising appropriate biosecurity measures, with the purpose of preventing the transmission of *infection*’.

For the purposes of the *Terrestrial Code*, the *infective period* for equine influenza is 21 days.

Standards for diagnostic tests and vaccines are described in the *Terrestrial Manual*.

Article 2.5.5.2.

The EI status of a country, a *zone* or a *compartment* can be determined on the basis of the following criteria:

1. the outcome of a *risk assessment* identifying all potential factors for EI occurrence and their historic perspective;
2. whether EI is notifiable in the whole country, an on-going EI awareness programme is in place, and all notified suspect occurrences of EI are subjected to field and, where applicable, laboratory investigations;
3. appropriate surveillance is in place to demonstrate the presence of *infection* in the absence of clinical signs in horses.

Article 2.5.5.3.

Equine influenza free country, zone or compartment

A country or *zone* or *compartment* may be considered free from EI provided the *disease* is notifiable in the whole country and it shows evidence of an effective surveillance programme, planned and implemented according to the general principles in Appendix 3.8.1. The surveillance may need to be adapted to parts of the country, *zone* or *compartment* depending on historical or geographical factors, industry structure, population data, movements of equids into the country, *zone* or *compartment*, wild equid populations or proximity to recent *outbreaks*.

A country, *zone* or *compartment* seeking freedom from EI, in which vaccination is practised, should also demonstrate that EIV has not been circulating in the domestic horse population during the past 12 months, through surveillance, in accordance with Appendix 3.8.1, ~~at a level sufficient to provide at least a 95% level of confidence of detecting infection if it is present at a prevalence rate exceeding 1%.~~ In a country in which vaccination is not practised, surveillance could be conducted using serological testing. In countries where vaccination is practised, the surveillance should include methods of virus detection.

If an *outbreak* of clinical equine influenza occurs in a previously free country, *zone* or *compartment*, free status can be regained 12 months after the last clinical case, providing that surveillance for evidence of *infection* has been carried out during that 12-month period ~~at a level~~ in accordance with Appendix 3.8.1, sufficient to provide at least a 95% level of confidence of detecting infection if it is present at a prevalence rate exceeding 1%.

Article 2.5.5.4.

(under study)

Regardless of the EI status of the *exporting country*, *zone* or *compartment*, the *Veterinary Authority* of a country, *zone* or *compartment* should authorise without restriction on account of EI the importation into their *territory* of the following *commodities*:

1. semen;
2. *in vivo* derived equine embryos collected, processed and stored in conformity with the provisions of Appendix 3.3.1. (under study).

Article 2.5.5.5

When importing horses for immediate *slaughter*, the *Veterinary Authorities* should require the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that the horses showed no clinical sign of EI on the day of shipment.

Article 2.5.5.6.

When importing horses for unrestricted movement, *Veterinary Authorities* should require:

the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that the horses:

1. came from an EI free country, *zone* or *compartment* in which they had been resident for at least 21 days; in the case of a vaccinated horse, information on its vaccination status should be included in the veterinary certificate;

OR

2. came from a country, *zone* or *compartment* not known to be free from EI, were subjected to pre-export isolation for 21 days and showed no clinical sign of EI during isolation nor on the day of shipment; and
3. were immunised vaccinated according to the manufacturer's instructions with a vaccine complying with standards described in the Terrestrial Manual between 21 and 90 days before shipment either with a primary course or a booster.

Article 2.5.5.7.

When importing horses which will be kept in isolation (see Article 2.5.5.1.), *Veterinary Authorities* should require:

the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that the horses:

1. came from an EI free country, ~~zone~~ or *compartment* in which they had been resident for at least 21 days; in the case of a vaccinated horse, information on its vaccination status should be included in the veterinary certificate;

OR

2. showed no clinical sign of EI in any premises in which the horses had been resident for the 21 days prior to shipment nor on the day of shipment; and
3. were ~~immunised~~ ~~vaccinated~~ according to the manufacturer's instructions, with a vaccine complying with standards described in the *Terrestrial Manual*.

Article 2.5.5.8.

When importing *fresh meat* of horses, mules or donkeys, *Veterinary Authorities* should require the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that the *fresh meat* came from horses, mules or donkeys which had been subjected to ante-mortem and post-mortem inspections as described in Appendix 3.10.1.